Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for preventing robots from browsing a Web site beyond a welcome page [110], said method in said Web site comprising the steps of:

receiving an initial request from an undefined originator and responding to said initial request [300] with a challenge [310] that prompts a response from said undefined originator; and

receiving a response [320] from said undefined originator and checking [330] said response to determine whether said challenge is fulfilled; and

if said challenge is fulfilled:

processing any further requests; and

if said challenge is not fulfilled:

stopping processing of any further requests.

2. The method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of stopping processing of said further requests includes the further step of:

dropping or redirecting a TCP connection [352] established with said undefined originator.

3. The method according to Claim 1 further including the steps of:

logging a source IP address [361] of said undefined originator and

starting a timer [362].

4. The method according to Claim 2 further including the steps of:

logging a source IP address [361] of said undefined originator and

starting a timer [362].

5. The method according to Claim 2 further including steps upon receiving a new request [410] of:

checking [420] whether a source IP address of said new request matches said logged source IP address; and

if said source IP address matches said logged source IP address:

checking [430] whether said timer has expired and,

if said timer is expired,

resetting [40] said logged IP address; and

proceeding [450] normally with said new request; and

if said timer is not expired,

dropping or redirecting said TCP connection [460];

if said source IP address does not match said logged source IP address,

proceeding [450] normally with said new request and executing all the above steps with each newly received request [410].

6. The method according to Claim 4 further including steps upon receiving a new request [410] of:

checking [420] whether a source IP address of said new request matches said logged source IP address; and

if said source IP address matches said logged source IP address:

checking [430] whether said timer has expired and,

if said timer is expired,

resetting [40] said logged IP address; and

proceeding [450] normally with said new request; and

if said timer is not expired,

dropping or redirecting said TCP connection [460];

if said source IP address does not match said logged source IP address,

proceeding [450] normally with said new request and executing all the above steps with each newly received request [410].

7. The method according to any one of Claims 1-6, wherein:

said challenge includes prompting said undefined originator to perform a specific action [130].

8. The method according to any one of Claims 1-6 wherein:

said prompting is different at each subsequent access of said web site.

9. The method according to Claim 7 wherein:

said prompting is different at each subsequent access of said web site.

10. The method according to any one of the previous Claims

1-6 wherein:

said response includes making a choice among a plurality of prompted response options [120].

11. The method according to Claim 7 wherein:

said response includes making a choice among a plurality of prompted response options [120].

12. The method according to Claim 8 wherein:

said response includes making a choice among a plurality of prompted response options [120].

13. The method according to Claim 9 wherein:

said response includes making a choice among a plurality of prompted response options [120].

14. The method according to any one of the previous Claims 1-6, wherein said response includes an answer to a quiz [510].

15. The method according to Claim 7, wherein said response includes an answer to a quiz [510].

16. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said response includes an answer to a quiz [510].

17. The method according to Claim 9, wherein said response includes an answer to a quiz [510].

18. The method according to Claim 10, wherein said response includes an answer to a quiz [510].

19. The method according to Claim 11, wherein said response includes an answer to a quiz [510].

20. The method according to Claim 12, wherein said response includes an answer to a quiz [510].

21. The method according to Claim 13, wherein said response includes an answer to a quiz [510].

22. The method acording to any one of the previous Claims 1-6, 9, 11-13, and 14-21, wherein said response is suggested by textual meaning [530].

23. The method according to Claim 7, wherein said response is suggested by textual meaning [530].

24. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said response is suggested by textual meaning [530].

25. The method according to Claim 10, wherein said response is suggested by textual meaning [530].

26. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said

response is suggested by textual meaning [530].

27. A computer process for preventing robots from browsing a web site beyond a welcome page, comprising computer-executable steps of:

receiving an initial request from an undefined originator and responding to said initial request [300] with a challenge [310] that prompts a response from said undefined originator; and receiving a response [320] from said undefined originator and checking [330] said response to determine whether said challenge is fulfilled; and

if said challenge is fulfilled:
processing any further requests; and

if said challenge is not fulfilled:
stopping processing of any further requests.

28. A computer process as claimed in Claim 27, further including computer-executable steps for:

dropping or redirecting a TCP connection [352] established with said undefined originator.

29. A computer process as claimed in Claim 27,

logging a source IP address [361] of said undefined originator and

starting a timer [362].

30. A computer process as claimed in Claim 28,

logging a source IP address [361] of said undefined originator and

starting a timer [362].

31. A computer process according to Claim 29, further including computer-executable steps for:

checking [420] whether a source IP address of said new request matches said logged source IP address; and

if said source IP address matches said logged source IP address:

checking [430] whether said timer has expired and,

if said timer is expired,

resetting [40] said logged IP address; and

proceeding [450] normally with said new request; and

if said timer is not expired,

dropping or redirecting said TCP connection [460];

if said source IP address does not match said logged source IP address,

proceeding [450] normally with said new request and executing all the above steps with each newly received request [410].

32. A computer process according to Claim 31, further including computer-executable steps for:

checking [420] whether a source IP address of said new request matches said logged source IP address; and

if said source IP address matches said logged source IP address:

checking [430] whether said timer has expired and,

if said timer is expired,

resetting [40] said logged IP address; and

proceeding [450] normally with said new request; and

if said timer is not expired,

dropping or redirecting said TCP connection [460];

if said source IP address does not match said logged source

IP address,

proceeding [450] normally with said new request and executing all the above steps with each newly received request [410].

33. A computer process according to any one of claims 28-32, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to perform a specific action.

34. A computer process according to any one of Claims 28-32, further including computer-executable steps for:

changing said prompting at each access of said website.

35. A compute rprocess according to Claim 33, further including computer-executable steps for:

checking [420] whether a source IP address of said new request matches said logged source IP address; and

if said source IP address matches said logged source IP address:

checking [430] whether said timer has expired and,

if said timer is expired,

resetting [40] said logged IP address; and

proceeding [450] normally with said new request; and

if said timer is not expired,

dropping or redirecting said TCP connection [460];

if said source IP address does not match said logged source IP address,

proceeding [450] normally with said new request and executing all the above steps with each newly received request [410].

36. A compuer process according to any one of Claims 28-32, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response chosen from among a plurality of prompted response options.

37. A computer process according to Claim 33, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response chosen from among a plurality of prompted response options.

38. A computer process according to Claim 34, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response chosen from among a plurality of prompted response options.

39. A computer process according to Claim 35, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response chosen from among a plurality of prompted response options.

40. A computer process according to any one of Claims 28-32, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response that is an answer to a quiz.

41. A computer process according to Claim 33, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response that is an answer to a quiz.

42. A computer process according to Claim 34, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response that is an answer to a quiz.

43. A computer process according to Claim 35, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response that is an answer to a quiz.

44. A computer process according to Claim 36, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response that is an answer to a quiz.

45. A computer process according to Claim 37, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response that is an answer to a quiz.

46. A computer process according to Claim 38, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response that is an answer to a quiz.

47. A computer process according to Claim 39, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response that is an answer to a quiz.

48. A computer process according to any one of Claims 28-32, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response based upon the knowledge content of said prompt.

49. A computer process according to Claim 33, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response based upon the knowledge content of said prompt.

50. A computer process according to Claim 34, further including computer-executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response based upon the knowledge content of said prompt.

51. A computer process according to Claim 35, further including computer executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response based upon the knowledge content of said prompt.

52. A computer process according to Claim 36, further including computer executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response based upon the knowledge content of said prompt.

53. A computer process according to Claim 37, further including computer executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response based upon the knowledge content of said prompt.

54. A computer process according to Claim 38, further including computer executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response based upon the knowledge content of said prompt.

55. A computer process according to Claim 39, further including computer executable steps for:

prompting said undefined originator to make a response based upon the knowledge content of said prompt.